[Chaudhari Hari Singh]

(b) whether it is a fact that the terrorists are roaming about in Delhi un-checked; and

(c) whether Government got any information about the involvement of the terrorists in Paharganj bomb blast; and

(d) what are the findings of the investigation if any, conducted into the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir. Fourteen persons were injured in a bomb blast that took place on 23-4-1992 in a restaurant in Paharganaj area of Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) All efforts are being made to work out this case. However, it will not be in the interest of investigation to disclose any fidings unless conclusively proved.

Terrorist Activities in West Delhi

1000. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Pioneer dated the 24-4-92 under the caption "West Delhi haven for terrorists" and more than 100 people were killed in the area in 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to arrest the terrorists in West Delhi areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Release of Terrorists in Kashmir

1001. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKAR DAVE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the circumstances and reasons for which Government have released five alleged terrorists, like Shri Lone and others in Kashmir; and

(b) whether Government had any talks or propose to enter into negotiation with them or other terrorist out-fits in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) 5 prominent persons, having affiliation to political organisations of Jammu & Kashmir, including Shri Abdul Gani Lone, were recently released, as their further continuance in detention was not considered necessary.

The Government is prepared to talk with anyone to find solution to the problem but the talks will have to be within the framework of the constitution after the parties bid fare well to arms and agree to eschew violence.

Communal Trouble in Kerala

1002. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Islamic Sevak Sangh in Kerala which engineered communal trouble in Kerala by circulating false posters on the demolition of Babri Masjid enjoys Pakistani patronage ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that deplomats from Pakistan High Commission are frequent visitors to the area on the invitation of some political parties and organisations ; and

(c) if so, the number of such visits during the last three months and what action Government propose to take to ban visit of foreign diplomats engaged in such activities which are encouraging fundamentalism ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the months from February to April, 1992, two Pakistani diplomats visited Kerala. All diplomats in India including Pakistani diplomats, do not need prior permission for visits outside Delhi. They inform the Ministry of External Affairs (Protocol Division) about their intinerary and programme in advance. However, in the case of visits to restricted/ prohibited areas prior permission is required.

1003. [*Transferred to the 11th May, 1992.*]

Amnesty International Report on Deaths in Custody

1004. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the Amnesty International on torture, rape and 415 deaths in custody since 1985;

(b) if so, what has been Government's response thereto which is a party to the International Instruments on Human Rights and also State-wise details of such cases during the above period;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Amnesty's 10 points programme to combat torture; and

(d) if so, what is Governmen's reacion thereto and what steps Government propose to take to improve he medieval condition in most of the police stations and the same type of outlook of most policemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) In its report entitled "Torture, Rape and Deaths in Custody in India" released in March, 1992, the Amnesy International (AI) has given a number of specific instances of reported excesses and violations of human rights in 19 States and Union Territories in India, primarily based on details published in local and national media and in the reports by Indian human rights organisations and other concerned bodies. Details of allegations have been sent to the concerned State Governments to provide factual details.

As the Amnesty International, inspite of our suggestion did not agree to postpone publication of the report by a few weeks to make available comments on specific allegations sought for from the State Governments, our comments were sent dealing with broader issues and other matters which need to be appreciated by the readers to understand the question of human rights in totality.

"Amnesty International" has also suggested a ten point programme for prevention of torure and other violations of human rights.

The thrust of the report of the Amnesty International is in sharp contrast with more balanced presentation on human rights matters by several other organisations, which have shown appreciation of India's vibrant democracy, free press, independent judiciary and highly sensitive and alert public opinion on major social and economic issues.

Many of the substantive points in the Amnesty International report are already mandated by the Constitution and laws of the land; some others deal with training and procedural matters. Efforts of the Central Government will continue to stress upon the States, who are primarily concerned with "police" and "public order" to vigorously pursue the legal obligations in these matters.